Volume 16, No. 9 January 2006 F R E E

TRUTH ABOUT POWER IS SPOKEN HERE
WIP
WORKS IN PROGRESS

WORKS IN PROGRESS

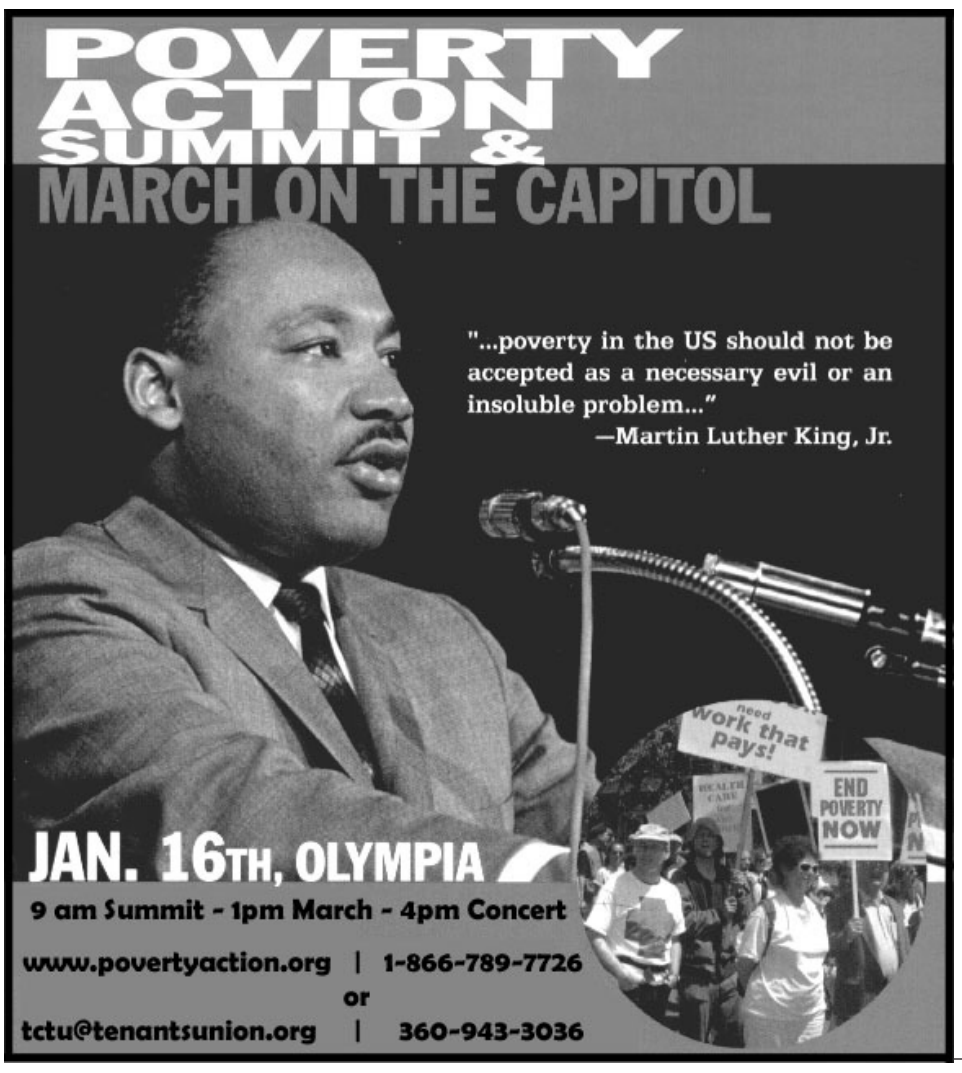
Established in 1990, by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition.

Poverty Action: A 21st Century Hunger March on the Capitol

by Pat Tassoni

The Statewide Poverty Action Network is working with local churches, labor organizations and non-profits to bring 1,000 poor people to Olympia on January 16 for a march to the Capitol and related events. Uniting under the above words of Martin Luther King, Jr. on his holiday, they will urge elected representatives to make ending poverty in Washington a priority through: **Access to Opportunity; Health and Well-being; and Work that Pays**.

When MLK had just celebrated his fifth birthday, 1,000 unemployed Washingtonians marched on the capitol in a Hunger March (January 17, 1933) to call upon the legislature to address the conditions of hunger, homelessness, housing, poverty and unemployment. The state responded with stalling decisions but managed to pass a relief bill using federal money. Six weeks later, Franklin Roosevelt took office as President, implementing the New Deal policies that brought welfare, medicare, unemployment, social security and public works programs.


POVERTY ACTION SUMMIT & MARCH ON THE CAPITOL
"...poverty in the US should not be accepted as a necessary evil or an insoluble problem..."
—Martin Luther King, Jr.
need work that pays!
END POVERTY NOW
JAN. 16TH, OLYMPIA
9 am Summit - 1pm March - 4pm Concert
www.povertyaction.org | 1-866-789-7726
or
tctu@tenantsunion.org | 360-943-3036

Shortly after MLK celebrated his ninth birthday, FDR delivered his second inaugural speech (January 20, 1937), the point of which was to wrestle society-controlling power from corporations and giving it back to the people:

"But here is the challenge to our democracy: In this nation I see tens of millions of its citizens—a substantial part of its whole population—who at this very moment are denied the greater part of what the very lowest standards of today call the necessities of life.

"I see millions of families trying to live on incomes so meager that the pall of family disaster hangs over them day by day.

I see millions whose daily lives in city and on farm continue under conditions labeled indecent by a so-called polite society half a century ago…

"I see one-third of a nation ill-housed, ill-clad, ill-nourished."

> The existence of poverty in the US should not be accepted as a necessary evil or an insoluble problem, but should be considered a crisis requiring emergency measures. It is a matter of will and priorities, not a matter of resources.
>
> —Martin Luther King, Jr.

Where are we now in the 21st century, on the 74th anniversary of Washington's first Hunger March? One-third of our state is ill-housed and ill-nourished. (No doubt due at least in part to sweatshop labor, we are not ill-clad.) Across our state as many as 1.7 million people are struggling in poverty, many with low-wage jobs, unable to meet their basic needs.

A few years ago, Washington ranked as the second hungriest state in the union and Washington continues to have one of the highest rates of hunger in the nation. Nowhere in the state can anyone working a minimum-wage job or anyone on public benefits afford fair-market rental housing

▸ **Poverty Action** *continued on page 11*

Civil Disobedience at Bangor:

Four Olympia activists are singled out for prosecution

by Alice Zillah

In mid-November, Shannon Bushnell, Patty Imani, Bryce Brown and I received letters from Kitsap County informing us that we would be prosecuted for "failure to disperse" dating from our action of nonviolent civil disobedience committed on August 8.

On that morning, we were four of the 19 people who stood and knelt in the middle of Luoto Road in Poulsbo, blocking the main gate to Bangor Submarine Base, home of the Trident nuclear submarine. Dozens of fellow peacemakers stood in vigil at the side of the road, offering us support as we were cuffed and put into police vans.

The letters came as somewhat of a surprise for two reasons. First, no one has been prosecuted for civil disobedience at Bangor in six years. During the late 1990s, juries in Kitsap County repeatedly voted to acquit defendants brought before them for blocking the road. Even though Kitsap is an area in which over 40% of the jobs are military-related, jury members who heard testimony about the illegality and immorality of nuclear weapons found activists "not guilty" again and again. Following a 1999 trial, the presiding juror stated that she was "proud to sit with these people." In 2000, after repeatedly failing to get a conviction, the prosecutor simply stopped pressing charges.

It was also surprising that out of 19 people arrested, only the four from Olympia were prosecuted. Deputy Prosecutor Jeffery Jahns explained that this was because, "We decided to keep people more local; it seemed like a fair thing to do." But, as the prosecutor's office knows, two arrestees live much closer to Port Orchard (where we will be tried) and seven other arrestees live in Seattle, which is just as close.

However, far from feeling persecuted, those of us being charged see it as a tremendous opportunity to share our feelings about nuclear weapons with a broad audience, and to deepen our own personal commitment to nonviolent resistance.

On that morning in August we were joined by Sister Jackie Hudson, a 70 year old Dominican nun. Jackie spent a year and a half in federal prison recently for, along with two other nuns, breaking into a nuclear missile compound in Colorado and pouring her own blood on the silo lid. From jail she wrote, "What are we willing to sacrifice? What next step are we willing to take to provide a nuclear free future for our children and children's children? Are we willing to fill the jails and prisons of the nation to

▸ **Bangor** *continued pg 10*

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a free, volunteer operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, WA. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the ***Works In Progress*** and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

*If you don't see your issue being covered in **Works In Progress**, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)*

Send submissions to wip@zhonka.net or mail to ***Works In Progress***, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Governing Tool:

The following statement is part of the Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:

***WIP** will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by **WIP** to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but **WIP** reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

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Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. ***Works In Progress*** is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Back Issues:

Get your catalog of indexed ***WIP***s below. Some back issues are available in the Timberland Library system. ***WIP*** is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

About the cover—*Artwork created by the University of Utah Office for Diversity. Used with permission.*

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January 20th

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Announcements

VoiceScapes presents a

Vocal Extravaganza

on **Friday, January 6th** and **Saturday January 7th** 2006.

Join us at **7:00pm** on **January 6th** at **Traditions Fair Trade Cafe** on the corner of Water Street and 5th Ave. in Olympia for performances from groups including: Portland Sacred Harp, the Bicycle Choir, Jessika Kenney, and Celia Chantal. Suggested donation is **$5.00**.

On **Saturday January 7th** join singers of all ages for a **FREE Shapenote singing workshop** from **noon to 4:00pm** at the **Eagles Hall**, 3rd floor, 805 4th Ave. East Olympia. Donations are accepted.

To learn more about Portland Sacred Harp and the shapenote singing style, go to: **http://www.portlandsacredharp.org/** For more information about the performance and workshop or if you have a rare style of singing to share, call **(360) 239-9861** or e-mail **voicescapes@graffiti.net**.

Tacoma Town Hall on The Iraq War

With Congressman Adam Smith

An afternoon of Q & A with the Congressman, discussion, network, and action in your community. This nationally coordinated event is sponsored locally by America in Solidarity.
Free to the public, all welcome.

Saturday, January 7
First United Methodist Church
423 MLK Jr. Way, Tacoma

Town Hall from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m., followed by:
Action Workshops: 2:45 to 5:00 p.m.
Sponsored by Tacoma/Pierce County Progressive Roundtable, America in Solidarity, and Micah Project First United Methodist Church
Concert 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Call (253) 471-1123 for more information and sign up (not necessary, but recommended) go to **www.americasolidarity.com**

Partners In Prevention Education hosts the premiere of the film

Downtowners

at the Capitol Theater on

Friday January 13 at 7pm.

The film will be followed by a Community Forum to encourage dialogue and creative problem solving. Tickets are available at Rainy Day Records & Traditions Fair Trade, or online at www.buyolympia.com. The cost is sliding scale $10-2. No one will be turned away! Proceeds will benefit Partners in Prevention Education & The Youth Media Project of Thurston Community Television.

For more information about Partners in Prevention Education visit **www.youthchangeagents.org** or call (360) 943-0780 ext. 205

For more information: **www.olydowntowners.com**.

Poverty Action Summit and March on the Capital

January 16 in Olympia

9:00 am: Summit • 1:00 pm: March • 4:00 pm: Concert

Contact info: **www.povertyaction.org** • (866) 789-7726
—or—
tctu@tenantsunion.org • (360) 943-3036

(See related article on page one.)

Benefit for Olympia Free School

Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price

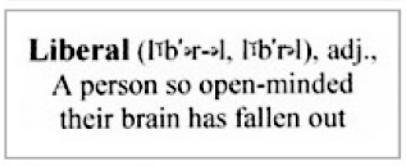
a look at the impact of the retail giant on local communities

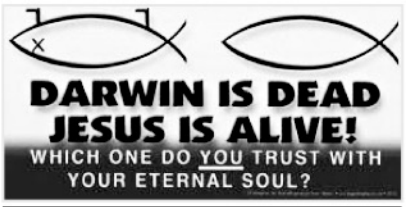
Friday, January 20th • 9pm
Capitol Theater • 206 E 5th Ave
$4.50 Olympia Film Society members / $7 non-members

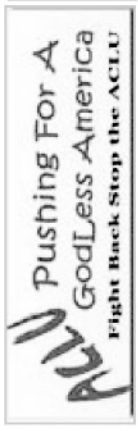
The Free School has been offering free classes to the community for five years. The Free School supports community-based learning by providing a forum for people of all ages to share their skills and talents with others. Info: (360) **352-4165** or **www.olympiafreeschool.org**

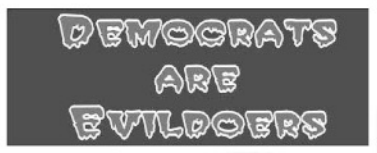
▸ **Announcements** *continued pg 11*

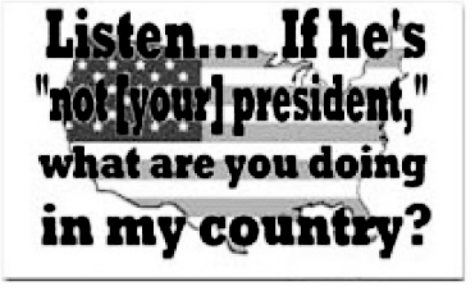
January 2006

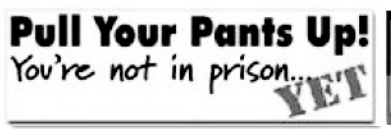












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Dress it as we may, feather it, daub it with gold, huzza it, and sing swaggering songs about it, what is war, nine times out of ten, but murder in uniform. Douglas Jerrold		**1** 1914: New Jersey sets women's minimum wage at $9/week 1797: Capital of NY state is moved from NYC to Albany	**2** 2004: US helicopter shot down, US forces claim attackers posed as journalists; Reuters journalists report US forces fired at them	**3** 2003: Peruvian court strikes down anti-terror laws used against 1990s rebel movements due to their secrecy/lack of due process	**4** 2005: Number of US troops wounded in Iraq has surpassed 10,000 2005: Chile's court upholds Pinochet's indictment, house arrest	**5** 2005: Puyallups agree to collect cigarette taxes from nontribal customers, but at lower rate than retailers outside reservation
6 2005: Edgar Ray Killen, preacher and known KKK leader, is arrested and charged w/ the 1964 murders of 3 civil rights workers	**7** 2005: Rossi files suit to overturn gov election 2005: Indiana governor grants clemency to mentally retarded death row inmate	**8** 2004: Powell admits there's no evidence of tie between Iraq and al-Qaida, but defends case before UN; still claims Iraq had WMDs	**9** 2005: Linguistic Society of American chooses 'red state, blue state, purple state' as phrase that dominated 2004 nat'l discourse	**10** 1903: Argentina bars importation of US beef for sanitary reasons 2004: British soldiers and Iraqi police clashed w/ protesters killing 6	**11** 1996: Centralia: Lois Gibbs speaks her experience at Love Canal 2004: Unemployed Iraqis throw stones at British troops	**12** 1915: US House defeats woman suffrage amendment 2005: Christine Gregoire is sworn in as WA governor
13 2005: Fed judge rules schools in Cobb Co. GA must remove sticker from text books that says evolution is a theory, not a fact"	**14** 2004: Bush calls on NASA to return astronauts to the moon and beyond 2004: Pentagon: suicides up in US troops in Iraq	**15** 2004: Brian Baird regrets vote on Patriot Act 2004: Bush jeered at MLK's grave; demonstrators chant "Go home, Bush!"	**16** 2004: Hamas founder Ahmed Yassin appears at a Gaza City mosque though a top Israeli official warns he is "marked for death"	**17** 2005: The Bush administration penalizes Chinese technology companies for aiding Iran in improving its ballistic missiles	**18** 2005: Supreme Court refuses to consider whether the gov's plan for military trials denies terror suspects their basic legal rights	**19** 2001: Bush sworn in as president 2005: Photographs surface of British troops abusing Iraqi prisoners May 2003
20 2005: US military officials announce charges against soldier who refused to return to Iraq for 2nd combat tour in December	**21** 2004: OH senate okays bill to ban gay marriage and prohibit state employees from getting benefits for domestic partners	**22** 2005: WA Post reveals Pentagon has created an espionage arm, and reinterpreting US law to replace CIA in spy operations abroad	**23** 2004: Unocal Corp cannot be held liable for human rights violations against its construction subsidiaries in Myanmar	**24** 2004: Bomb kills 5 US soldiers: US death toll in Iraq now at 512 2004: Blair says the search for WMD in Iraq must continue	**25** 1996: 200 rally against armed TESC security 2005: White House announces this year fed budget deficit will rise to $427 billion	**26** 1910: Police rescue British PM from suffragettes' attack 2005: Helicopter crash and rebel attacks kill 37 US troops in Iraq
27 2005: Riggs Bank pleas guilty to hiding transfers of millions of dollars in accounts controlled by Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet	**28** 1997: Weyerhauser paper plant chemical spill (sulfate surpentine) in Longview spreads bad odor across South Sound area	**29** 2002: Bush, in state of the union speech, says "war against terror is only beginning" and calls Iran, Iraq, and Korea the "axis of evil"	**30** 1005: NAACP refuses to turn over documents in IRS investigation, claiming the investigation is politically motivated	**31** 1933: Hitler promises parliamentary democracy 2004: Iraq bars Al-Jazeera from news conferences for month	An error does not become truth by reason of multiplied propagation, nor does truth become error because nobody sees it. Mohandas Gandhi	

Local Documentary focuses on issues of youth homelessness and sexual violence

Downtowners

by Nichole Ketcherside

I started working on the documentary "Downtowners" when I enrolled in the program Local Knowledge at The Evergreen State College during the 2004-2005 academic year. Local Knowledge gave students the opportunity to do community-based research. One of our first field assignments was to conduct an ethnographic observation. I chose to focus on the Olympia Transit Center when I noticed a lot of youth were congregating on the corner of Washington and State. I began collaborating with fellow classmate Jessica Eskelson on a short video focusing on the issues of public space around the Transit Center. We talked to local businesses and employees of Intercity Transit who said the presence and behaviors of the youth on the corner were scaring away customers. When I looked over to the corner all I saw were kids hanging out with friends. Yes, they were loud and occasionally I heard a curse word, but all those things are typical teenage behaviors. Maybe the Transit Center isn't the best place for them to hang out, but if not there, then where can youth go to just hang out and be themselves? Some of the youth that we talked to said they hang out at the Transit Center because there is nowhere else for them to go.

While talking to the youth we found out that a lot of them where homeless. A census done by the *Thurston County Housing Task Force* in the winter of 2005 reported that there where at least 249 youth and young adults under 21 in Thurston County that were currently homeless. Jessica and I became familiar with some of the primary reasons that youth where on the streets when we met Rosalinda Noriega of *Partners in Prevention Education* in the winter of 2005. *Partners in Prevention Education* is a coalition of local service providers, advocates, and homeless youth working together to raise awareness about the connection between youth homelessness and sexual violence. A report conducted by Rosalinda during the summer of 2004 reported 66 percent of homeless youth surveyed in Olympia have experienced sexual abuse, and 73 percent reported having had an abusive home life.

> A report conducted by Rosalinda during the summer of 2004 reported 66 percent of homeless youth surveyed in Olympia have experienced sexual abuse, and 73 percent reported having had an abusive home life.

When we met Rosalinda we shared with her our desire to create a documentary about the homeless youth in downtown Olympia. Rosalinda invited us to attend her meetings and meet some of the homeless youth that she had been working with. During the winter of 2005 Jessica and I spent time getting to know the youth downtown. We discussed homelessness, sexual violence, panhandling, addiction, family, street culture, safety, police conduct, and public perception of homeless youth. We conducted camera interviews with them, and invited them to meetings where they could give us feedback on our film. Through my relationships with the youth I have learned that many of them are very intelligent, polite, articulate, compassionate, and honest human beings who suffered trauma that lead them to be homeless. Unfortunately, there are not very many services in Olympia that homeless youth can or will access.

Shelters in Olympia require a youth to be at least eighteen, and some youth have shared with me that they feel safer sleeping on the street than in the shelter. For youth under eighteen the most well-known resource is *Community Youth Services* (*CYS*). CYS houses a variety of youth programs including Rosie's Place. During its first year, Rosie's Place functioned as a drop-in center where youth could access services and hang out. Currently, it's operating as a resource center where youth can eat and talk to outreach staff, but it is no longer a place where youth can just hang out. The youth are still in need of a place where they can access recreational activities and social services at the same time.

The only way we as a community are going to be able to address these issues is if we allow youth to be a part of the discussion. Their perspectives are key to understanding the realities of street life. Our main intention in making the documentary is to give youth the opportunity to share their voices with the larger community, and to challenge some of the stereotypes and stigmas that people have about the youth downtown.

Partners In Prevention Education is hosting the premiere of the film "DOWNTOWNERS" at the Capital Theatre on Friday January 13th at 7pm. The film will be followed by a Community Forum to encourage dialog and creative problem-solving. Tickets are available at Rainy Day Records & Traditions Fair Trade, or online at www.buyolympia.com. The cost is sliding scale 10-25 dollars. No one will be turned away! Proceeds will benefit Partners in Prevention Education & The Youth Media Project of Thurston Community Television.

For more information about Partners in Prevention Education visit **www.youthchangeagents.org** *or call* **(360) 943-0780 ext. 205**

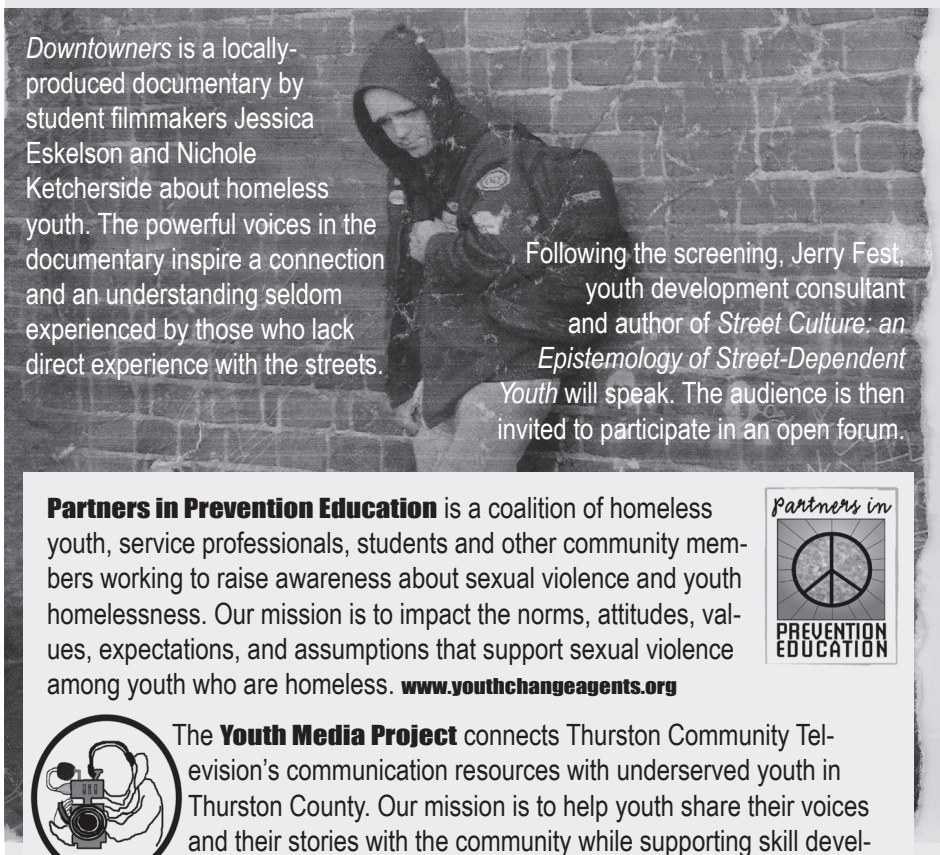
For more information about Downtowners, *visit* **www.olydowntowners.com** *or* **olydowntowners@comcast.net**

Benefit for **Partners in Prevention Education** *and* **The Youth Media Project** *of Thurston Community Television*

DOWNTOWNERS

Friday, January 13th, 7pm (Doors 6pm)

Sliding scale $10-25 at the door / $10 advance tickets available at Traditions, Rainy Day Records, www.buyolympia.com. No one will be turned away!



Downtowners is a locally-produced documentary by student filmmakers Jessica Eskelson and Nichole Ketcherside about homeless youth. The powerful voices in the documentary inspire a connection and an understanding seldom experienced by those who lack direct experience with the streets.

Following the screening, Jerry Fest, youth development consultant and author of *Street Culture: an Epistemology of Street-Dependent Youth* will speak. The audience is then invited to participate in an open forum.

Partners in Prevention Education is a coalition of homeless youth, service professionals, students and other community members working to raise awareness about sexual violence and youth homelessness. Our mission is to impact the norms, attitudes, values, expectations, and assumptions that support sexual violence among youth who are homeless. **www.youthchangeagents.org**

The **Youth Media Project** connects Thurston Community Television's communication resources with underserved youth in Thurston County. Our mission is to help youth share their voices and their stories with the community while supporting skill development, youth leadership, and respect for youth voices.

Event Sponsors: blue.door.design, The Community Sustaining Fund, Community Youth Services, Food Not Bombs, The Evergreen State College Foundation Activity Grant, and The Urban Layers Project.

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Big Brother Bush is Listening

by Marjorie Cohn

Any time you hear the United States government talking about wiretap, it requires—a wiretap requires a court order.

—George W. Bush,
April 20, 2004, Buffalo, NY

In an assertion of executive power that rivals the excesses of the McCarthy era of the late 1940's and 1950's, and the dreaded COINTELPRO (counter-intelligence program) of the 1950's and 1960's, George W. Bush's National Security Agency has been secretly spying on United States citizens without warrants for the last three years.

George Orwell's book "1984" was first published during the heyday of McCarthyism in 1949. In the society Orwell described, everyone was under surveillance by the authorities. The people were constantly reminded of this by the phrase, "Big Brother is watching you."

During the McCarthy period, in an effort to eradicate the perceived threat of communism, the government engaged in widespread illegal surveillance to threaten and silence anyone who had an unorthodox political viewpoint. Many people were jailed, blacklisted and fired from—or otherwise lost—their jobs. Thousands of lives were shattered as the FBI engaged in "red-baiting."

Although Orwell's allegory was aimed at communism, it was the United States government that initiated COINTELPRO, designed by its own terms to "disrupt, misdirect, discredit and otherwise neutralize" political and activist groups. In the 1960s, for example, the FBI targeted Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in a program called "Racial Matters." King's campaign to register African-American voters in the South raised the hackles of the FBI, which disingenuously claimed King's organization was being infiltrated by communists. In fact, the FBI was really concerned that King's civil rights campaign, and particularly his opposition to the Vietnam War, "represented a clear threat to the established order of the US." The FBI went after King with a vengeance, wiretapping his telephones and securing very personal information which it used to try to discredit him and drive him to divorce and suicide.

In response to the excesses of COINTELPRO, a congressional committee chaired by Senator Frank Church, a Democrat from Iowa, conducted an investigation of activities of the domestic intelligence agencies in the 1950's, 1960's and early 1970's. Congress established guidelines to regulate FBI activity in foreign and domestic intelligence-gathering. Reacting against President Richard Nixon's assertion of unchecked presidential power, Congress enacted the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) in 1978, to regulate electronic surveillance, while at the same time protecting national security.

FISA established a secret court to consider applications by the government for wiretap orders. It specifically created only one exception for the president to conduct electronic surveillance without a warrant. For that exception to apply, the Attorney General must certify under oath that the communications to be monitored will be exclusively between foreign powers, and that there is no substantial likelihood that a United States person will be overheard.

FISA allows the Attorney General to engage in wiretapping in emergency situations without a prior judicial order provided he or she applies for one within 72 hours after initiating the surveillance. And FISA specifically covers warrantless wiretaps during wartime; it limits them to the first 15 days after war is declared. Since 1978, the court has granted about 19,000 warrants and only turned down five.

Nevertheless, in spite of FISA's streamlined procedure for allowing lawful surveillance, Bush has sidelined the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. In 2002, he signed an executive order that authorizes the National Security Agency to wiretap people within the United States with no judicial review. It is estimated that the NSA has eavesdropped on thousands of private conversations in the last three years. Additionally, the NSA has combed through large volumes of telephone and Internet communications flowing into and out of the United States. It has thus collected vast personal information that has nothing to do with national security.

> "I am also confident that the 98 senators who voted in favor of authorization of force against al Qaeda did not believe that they were also voting for warrantless domestic surveillance."
>
> —Tom Daschle

In the wake of the outcry after the New York Times broke the story of Bush's secret surveillance, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales cited Congress's authorization of the use of force the day after the September 11 terrorist attacks as justification for the program. But the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) only permits the president to use "necessary and appropriate force" against "nations, organizations, or persons" that "planned, authorized, committed, or aided" the 9/11 attacks, or that "harbored such persons."

That license to use appropriate force does not authorize the government to spy on people in the United States without a warrant. Indeed, several congresspersons who voted for the AUMF say they only intended to grant the president authority to invade Afghanistan, not to conduct unbridled electronic surveillance of people in the United States.

Tom Daschle, a former Democratic senator from South Dakota, was Senate majority leader when Congress passed AUMF. He helped negotiate the law with the White House counsel's office. "I can state categorically that the subject of warrantless wiretaps of American citizens never came up," Dashcle said. "I did not and never would have supported giving authority to the president for such wiretaps. I am also confident that the 98 senators who voted in favor of authorization of force against al Qaeda did not believe that they were also voting for warrantless domestic surveillance."

In fact, Daschle revealed that Congress turned down White House proposals both to authorize the use of military force to "deter and pre-empt any future acts of terrorism or aggression against the United States," and to authorize the use of appropriate force "in the United States."

Senator Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., described Bush's spying program as an "arrogant usurpation of power." He said, "The president is not above the law; he is not King George." Senator Russ Feingold, D-Wis., agreed: "He is the president, not a king," Feingold noted.

It is not just congresspersons who are outraged at Bush's secret surveillance. US District Judge James Robertson, one of 11 members of the FISA court, has resigned. Robertson, selected by former Chief Justice William Rehnquist to serve on the FISA court, reportedly expressed deep concern that Bush's program is legally questionable and may have tainted the FISA court's work, according to the Washington Post.

Besides the NSA program, the American Civil Liberties Union has discovered through a Freedom of Information request that counter-terrorism agents at the FBI have conducted extensive surveillance of such groups as the Vegan Community Project, the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, and a Catholic Workers group the FBI accuses of having a "semi-communist ideology." Red-baiting is once again alive and well in America.

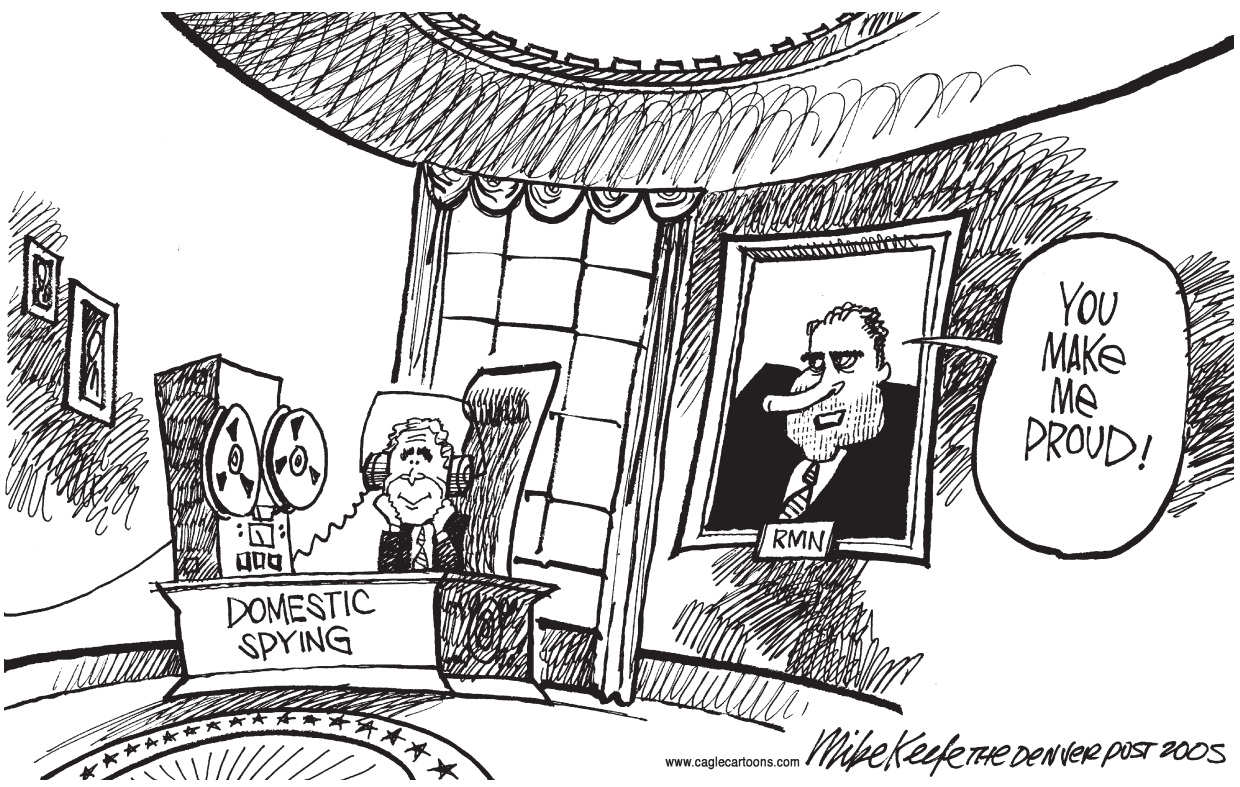
In 1975, Senator Frank Church said of the NSA, "That capability at any time could be turned around on the American people, and no American would have any privacy left, such as the capability to monitor everything: telephone conversations, telegrams, it doesn't matter. There would be no place to hide." Church worried about the capacity of "this agency and all agencies that possess this technology" to "make tyranny total in America."

George W. Bush has fulfilled the prophesies of both George Orwell and Frank Church—with a vengeance. But neither Orwell nor Church could have foreseen the technological developments that enable Bush's large ears to penetrate our most intimate conversations.

The real motivation underlying Bush's unprecedented assertion of executive power was revealed by Dick Cheney: "Watergate and a lot of the things around Watergate and Vietnam, both during the 1970's, served, I think, to erode the authority I think the president needs to be effective, especially in the national security area. The President of the United States needs to have his constitutional powers unimpaired."

Bush has gone far beyond what the Constitution authorizes, however. Only Congress has the power to make laws. Congress has not authorized the president to suspend the law. And FISA makes it a crime, punishable by up to five years in jail, for the executive to conduct a wiretap without statutory authorization.

Printed with permission. Marjorie Cohn is a professor at Thomas Jefferson School of Law, President-elect of the National Lawyers Guild, and the US representative to the executive committee of the American Association of Jurists. She writes a weekly column for truthout.



Democracy, Evolution, and Intelligent Design

by Marco Rosaire Rossi

Sometime in January, the 11th Circuit District Court is expected rule on whether the school board in Dover County, Pennsylvania can force its teachers to read the following statement before a biology lesson: "Darwin's Theory is a theory… not a fact. Gaps in the theory exist for which there is no evidence." The court's ruling is significant, and could have a major impact on the separation of church and state, the American education system, and the future of science.

People who want the court to rule in favor of the school board are hoping to squeeze the idea of "intelligent design" into public schools. Advocates of intelligent design believe the biological world, or at least certain aspects of it, are too complex and perfect to have been formed without intervention from a conscious intelligent being—a God. They claim the idea is not a new form of Christian creationism and is scientifically valid. They are wrong on both accounts. Intelligent design is a position that creationists have been forced into through the secularizing of society—particularly in regards to the law. It is not a scientific idea drawn from observation, rigorous testing, and logical deduction. Allowing it into the classroom can only have detrimental affects on society.

Science deals with things that are factual, testable, and logically inferred through evidence. The existence of an "intelligent designer" cannot be tested or verified in any objective way.

The first time that the ideas of evolution were formerly put on trial in the United States was in 1925 when the governor of Tennessee signed into law the Butler Act. The law "prohibited the teaching of the Evolution Theory… (and) any theory that denies the story of the Divine Creation of man as taught in the Bible." The law was challenged in the infamous case *Tennesse v. John Thomas Scopes*. The defense technically lost the case before the Tennessee Supreme Court, but they were able to make such a mockery of the idea of creationism and the unconstitutional nature of the law that many considered it a win. The law remained on the books, but was completely unenforceable.

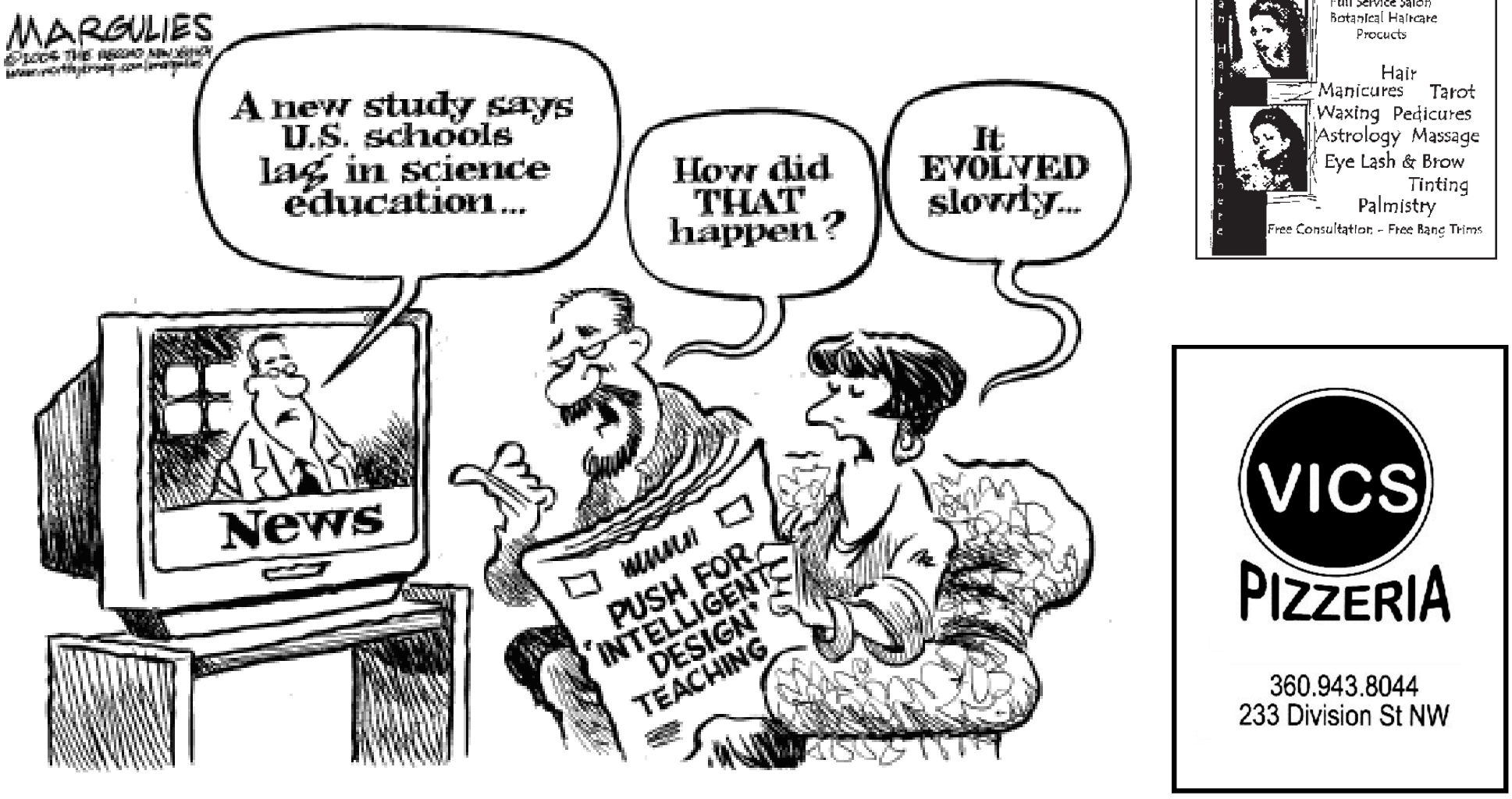
Anti-evolution laws were to make their way through the courts again. The next major case was *Epperson v. Arkansas* (1968). The case involved a high school teacher who was caught between following her job, teaching the information in the text book, and following a law which prohibited evolution being taught in school. Unlike in *Tennessee v. Scopes*, this trial made it all the way to the United States Supreme Court, and this time the teacher won. The court ruled that legally prohibiting the teaching of evolution in favor of a creationist view was a violation of the establishment clause of the First Amendment.

The ruling was a setback for creationists and they had to change their tactics. Decade old laws banning evolution were stripped from the record and new laws emerged that required teachers to teach creationism alongside evolution. Again, this situation found its way before the courts. In *Edwards v. Aguillard* (1987), the Supreme Court determined the constitutionality of Louisiana's "Balanced Treatment for Creation-Science and Evolution-Science in Public School Instruction" (also known as the less cumbersome Creationism Act). The law prohibited the teaching of evolution unless it was accompanied by a lesson in "creation-science" in all public schools. The Supreme Court struck down the law as a violation of the establishment clause of the First Amendment. Justice Brennan, writing for the majority, concluded that the law's intent was "to advance the religious viewpoint that a supernatural being created humankind". The term "creation science" was defined as embracing this particular religious doctrine by those responsible for the passage of the Creationism Act. Essentially, the purpose of the Creationism Act was to "restructure the science curriculum to conform with a particular religious viewpoint."

With the ruling in *Edwards v. Aguillard* the advocates for creationism faced another setback, and again tactics changed. Now, advocates of creationism are attacking evolution through the idea of intelligent design in the hope that they could meet the new legal standards. As Eugenie Scott, the executive director of the National Center for Science Education in Oakland, California joked: "You have to hand it to the creationists. They have evolved."

Of course, to preserve academic freedom and good science, any scientific view could be brought into the classroom to challenge some or all the ideas embodied in Darwin's theory of evolution. The important point is that a science class deals with scientific ideas, not supernatural ones. The National Academy of Science and the American Association for the Advancement of Science have both looked into the idea of intelligent design. Their conclusions are that it is not a science. The reasoning is very simple. Science deals with things that are factual, testable, and logically inferred through evidence. The existence of an "intelligent designer" cannot be tested or verified in any objective way. Ideas of God, Creator, or "intelligent designer" may have a place as speculations in religion or philosophy, but it is not acceptable to include them in the realm of science. That point is frustrating for the creationists, but common sense to the scientists.

Democracy is fragile because its foundation is built on only a few principles. For that reason, those principles need to be fortified as much as possible. The separation between church and state, and the preservation of academic freedom are two obvious ones. The power of these ideas will dwindle if the court rules in favor of the school board and lets intelligent design creep into the classroom. Preserving the right of school teachers to teach evolution is not only important for the sake of science and education, but also democracy.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Collective Punishment and Life in Gaza

by Rochelle Gause

Looking out over the Rafah skyline at dark from the roof of my apartment building, most families are sleeping. The flicker of a few late night TVs can be seen through an occasional window. The street lights shine down on the sidewalks, highlighting mounds of sand and scattered trash. Laundry and the tattered edges of Palestinian flags blow gently in the wind. Things are peaceful, mostly quiet with the sporadic calls of roosters and donkeys.

The slow rumble begins of the American-made F16s overhead, not a new sound, but tonight there are many and more consistent than usual. The bright lights of flash grenades rip me from the occupation-free reality I have always known, reminding me I am in Rafah. The experience is surreal. There have been mock air raids for intimidation purposes every night over Gaza for the last few days as well as over 25 actual missiles dropped … destroying major roads, agricultural lands and a bridge. "Four access routes have been targeted in the northern Gaza Strip by the air force," an IDF spokesman said. "The routes have been used by terrorists to reach areas from which they launch rockets and mortar shells at Israeli targets." These homemade rockets are highly inaccurate, have a range of 10 kilometers and according to Israel itself, pose no strategic threat. Yet, these so called "routes" being bombed are not used solely by the resistance fighters but are the roads to schools, hospitals, homes and farms of the 1.4 million residents of Gaza.

Last week I heard the sound of an Apache helicopter and stood to look out the window because it sounded so close and seemed to be making circles around the apartment. Glancing out the window I watched it drop a missile that lit up red and disappeared behind the apartment building across the street. It landed in a nearby neighborhood directly on a car in the street, killing the 20 year-old resistance fighter they were aiming for. There was no trial, just an assassination. Ten innocent civilians were injured including three children. This is just one of many of these extra-judicial killings, clearly illegal by international law, committed by Israel regularly.

I have been trying to write about these experiences for two weeks but have been wordless in attempting to explain the immense gap between my previous perception as understood by Hollywood movies and news accounts and the reality, the feeling of watching a machine made by your country drop a weapon into the community in which you are living. It is so different when you know families in the neighborhood under attack, when the store across the street where you usually shop is closed because the night before someone in their family was killed. When a missile is falling on the same neighborhood where earlier in the day you saw the simple beauty of a small child carrying his younger brother on his back through puddles, watched taxis swerve around a toothless old man driving a donkey cart loaded with fresh tomatoes, and where you sat with a family who insisted you eat more when you know they don't have enough food to feed themselves.

Collective punishment... "the punishing of a group of people for the crime of a few or even of one. It is in direct contradiction to the concept of due process, where each individual receives separate treatment based on their individual circumstances as they relate to the crime in question." In my short time in Palestine I have witnessed collective punishment by Israel through the mass arrests of young men simply because of their age, the demolitions of hundreds of homes of innocent families because of their location, the inability of all Palestinians to move freely to school, to jobs, to see their family, to get to the hospital, the destruction and confiscation of olive groves, and now, the air strikes on neighborhoods and infrastructure. In Gaza this week, 3 month-old Maria Fikri Ekhrout, was injured by shrapnel to the right eye and the skull when she was at home. She was only one of many innocent civilians injured and this is "post-disengagement," (more accurately redeployment from the ground to air, border, and sea). The windows of a large hospital were blown out. I am tired of listing these atrocities, the words seem empty in contrast to the look in the eyes of those who have suffered from them directly. How the list might read differently if you too saw the old man praying on a small rug in the rubble of his demolished home. These direct experiences lift the long lists of human rights abuses off the page, giving them new meaning, no longer just reaching the logical mind, but moving in to the heart.

> The military strategies of Israel and the U.S. create the very chaos that "forces them to remain and take necessary security measures."

The Israeli military and the media provide no shortage of attempted justifications for these acts of collective punishment, and it is the responsibility of Israeli citizens and Americans who fund these actions to demand that such attacks must stop. In short sound-bytes, the media attempts to portray Israel as only "defending itself" against supposedly hate-filled Arabs. Once you are here on the ground this rhetoric is absurd. Yes, there are individual Palestinians who are firing rockets into Israel, suicide bombers who have killed innocent Israelis, but forcing the entire population of Palestinians to suffer daily will not bring peace. Bombing roads, killing Palestinian children and leaving thousands of poor civilians without homes is not a proper response. Anger is fed and more good-hearted civilians become extremists.

Repeatedly the media and Israel blame the Palestinian leadership for their "inability to restore order, to stop 'terrorist' attacks and control the situation." But this denies the role of 38 years of occupation and the systematic, strategic role Israel has played in destroying the infrastructure of the Palestinian Authority. There is no question that a lot of corruption exists within the PA, but they are not to blame for the resistance. Without occupation there would be nothing to resist. I hear the same logic from the United States in reference to Iraq, justifying the collective punishment and the continued occupation because without it, there will be chaos. That, like the PA, the new Iraqi government can't get things under control. It is a self-fulfilling prophesy. The military strategies of Israel and the U.S. create the very chaos that "forces them to remain and take necessary security measures." In Palestine, while the Israel Occupation continues, these security measures come in the form of a wall that claims mass amounts of arable land and the majority of all water resources. In Iraq, while the American occupation continues, billions of dollars end up in the hands of U.S. based corporations for "reconstruction" and continued resource control.

The first morning after I witnessed an air strike, over tea with a close family, I mentioned what I had seen in the night. The family smiled at each other, "this is normal" the father told me, "no big deal." Right now the atrocities I am witnessing are nothing compared to what they have seen, what they have lived through. Yet an end to the collective punishment is no where in sight. Israeli defense officials announced today the creation of a "no-go zone" 1.5 miles deep which will run along the northern and eastern edges of Gaza enforced with artillery, helicopter and gunboat fire. According to a senior official in the Prime Minister's Office, under this policy "anything that moved" would be "fair game." Gaza is only about 25 miles long and six miles wide so this is a significant amount of land, much of it farmland. They recently threatened to cut off electricity to Gaza following each rocket attack. This policy is on hold due to pressure from human rights groups pointing out that the hospital in Gaza is without generators. Agriculture Minister Yisrael Katz, stated that "if the options are that Israeli southern communities suffer rocket fire or Gazans flee to Sinai under Israeli bombardment, I prefer the second option." Yesterday, in the U.S., our congress approved an additional 600 million dollars to Israel to "fund joint security projects."

The longer I am here and the more exposure I have to the experience of life under occupation the more confused I become about the difference between "terrorism" and the anti-terror policies of collective punishment employed by Israel and the US. I feel frustration and hopelessness for the future of the people I have come to know in the last three months. Yet I still hold on to the hope in people-to-people connection and know there is power in the simple act of listening and sharing one another's stories.

Rochelle Gause, an Olympia resident, is in Rafah as part of a five-person delegation from the Olympia-Rafah Sister City Project.

Palestinian children in Rafah in Gaza.

Capitalism Eviscerates the First Amendment and Subverts Democracy

by Robert Jensen

While the great battles fought over the First Amendment's religion and free-speech/-press clauses are some of the most inspiring stories told 'round the legal campfire, the amendment's assembly and petition clauses are mostly a forgotten footnote.

There has been no great legal battle in easy memory over the right "to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." In 1939, the Supreme Court decided a case, Hague v. Congress of Industrial Organizations, that definitively established "the right of the people peaceably to assemble" in public space, and there's been little discussion since.

Yet both these First Amendment footnotes offer important lessons about the more subtle—and what today are more crucial—obstacles to meaningful democracy that come with our economic system.

The right to petition the government is not really in question in a modern nation-state based on democratic principles. While a king, whose legitimacy was grounded in the concept of divine-right monarchy, might have contested his subjects' rights to press political demands, citizens in a democracy have an inherent right to petition those politicians who are supposed to serve us.

But a question nags: Are all petitions received by our leaders given equal weight? Are rich and poor alike going to be heard? The answer is painfully obvious.

Two realities distort the right of petition in the real world.

First is the reality that political campaigns are exercises in fundraising. For example, 96 percent of House and 91 percent of Senate races in 2004 were won by the candidate who spent the most. Those who provide that funding have an advantage: Money equals access, which means that when the campaign is over, some petitions are more equal than others.

Debates about the constitutionality of campaign-finance reform measures that try to deal with the distorting influence of big money are typically framed by the question of whether they limit the freedom of speech of contributors or candidates. But we might start to think of such reforms as protection of the right of petition.

Second, those who hire well-connected (and expensive) lobbyists to deliver a petition have an advantage. Recent news has focused on how lobbyists Jack Abramoff and Michael Scanlon allegedly defrauded their own clients, but the main problem with the lobbying industry is the routine way it skews the political process toward those who can afford to hire the big guns to influence policy.

> In a world in which the playing field is so tilted toward the wealthy, can we pretend that traditional libertarian defenses of money-as-speech can adequately address the contemporary political crisis?

Should we place stricter limits on paid lobbyists? Some argue it is a restriction on political freedom to limit anyone's right to spend money in attempts to influence public policy. But in a world in which the playing field is so tilted toward the wealthy, can we pretend that traditional libertarian defenses of money-as-speech can adequately address the contemporary political crisis?

Moreover, while the right to peaceably assemble is established in law, there remain struggles to ensure that the right to do so isn't undermined by sophisticated police tactics that appear to allow public protests but use pre-emptive arrest, physical barriers, and "free-speech zones" to limit protesters' ability to engage the public. Such heavy-handed operations were effective in Miami during the protests of the 2003 meetings about the Free Trade Area of the Americas and in New York during the 2004 Republican National Convention.

Yet the most disturbing threat to freedom of assembly isn't from the ways in which police officers restrict movement in public space, but from the disappearance of public space itself. Our conception of political assembly is rooted in a geography that is increasingly rare—the town square, the public meeting ground, a collective space in which people gather expecting political engagement.

Today the space that is most public is privatized: the shopping mall. If one wanted to distribute a political pamphlet and engage fellow citizens in conversation about the issues of the day, the mall would be the optimal site—a place where people of all ages and classes gather for commercial and social purposes.

But while the mall is a very public place in some senses, it is private property and hence not governed by the First Amendment. The U.S. Supreme Court has declined to impose on the owners of these public spaces the requirement to honor people's assembly and speech rights there (though they left the door open for states to find such a right in their own constitutions). When our lives in public are increasingly conducted in privatized space, are conventional understandings of "public" and "private" adequate for a democracy?

Both these First Amendment freedoms illustrate the paradox of U.S. politics. On one hand, we have extensive formal guarantees of political freedoms that have been hard-won by dissidents and progressive political movements that pressed the courts and legislatures to expand the scope of freedom. But the concentration of wealth in corporate capitalism means that those formal freedoms—while never irrelevant—are increasingly less important in a world in which money is necessary to amplify our voices in mass media.

The distortion of a political process by our economic system is also obvious in the realm of the speech and press clauses of the First Amendment, where we face tough questions about how to counter the increasing concentration of media ownership in a shrinking number of corporations, and whether full First Amendment protection should extend to commercial advertising.

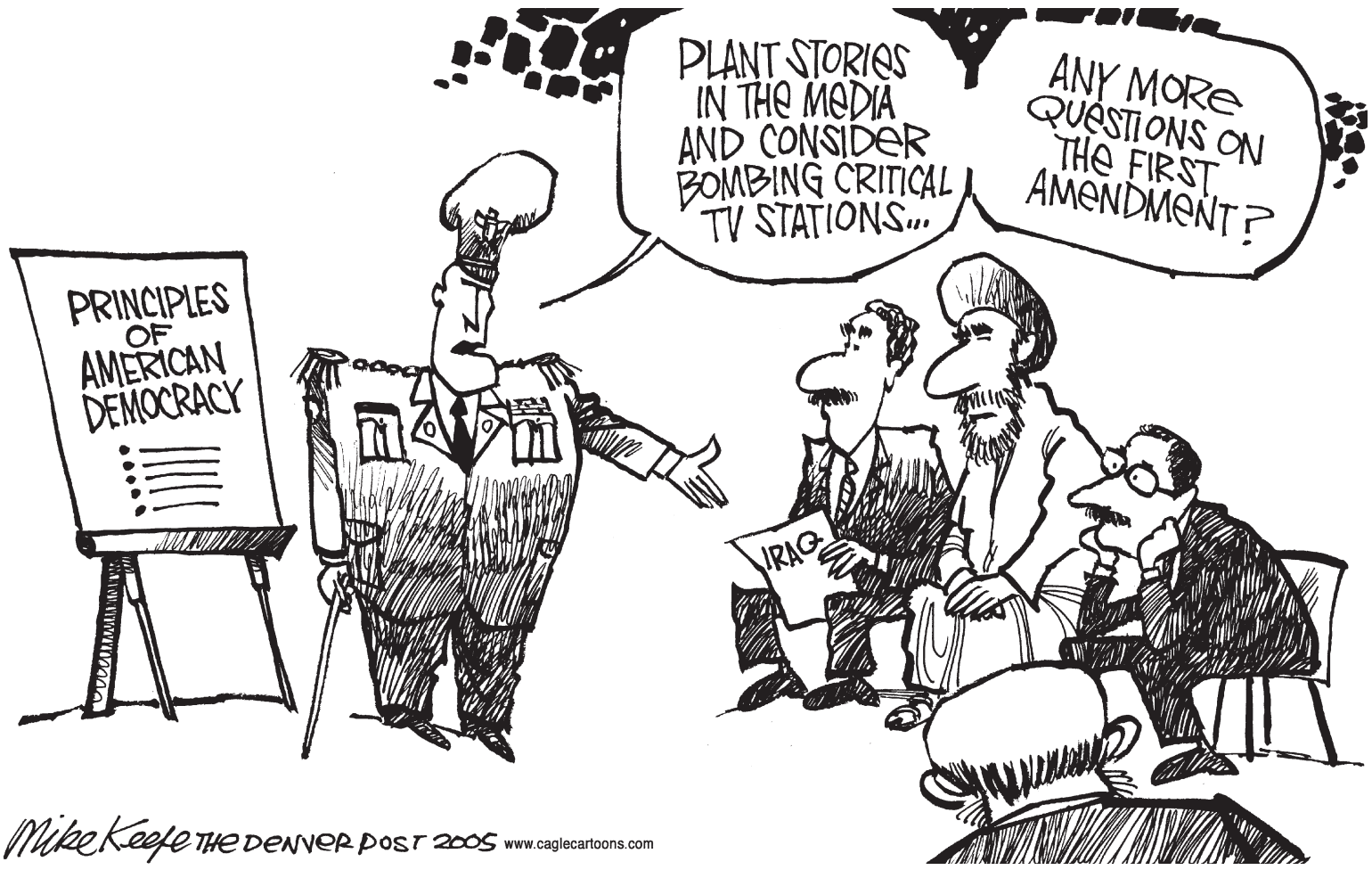
If First Amendment debates are to be productive—if they are to be part of a process that helps us re-energize a political system that an increasing number of people feel is irrelevant to their lives—we will have to come to terms with the inherent incompatibility of capitalism and democracy. The former is a wealth-concentrating system that also concentrates political power, while the latter is premised on the assumption of the diffusion of power.

To date, the Supreme Court has ignored this simple reality, as has most of U.S. society. Even the self-proclaimed guardian of freedom, the American Civil Liberties Union, has trouble thinking straight about the problems for democracy that capitalism creates.

But if the First Amendment is to be part of a real democratic future—one in which ordinary people have a meaningful role in the formation of public policy, not simply a place in the political stadium as spectators—lawmakers and judges will have to come to terms with this basic contradiction.

It is unlikely they will confront the issue unless We the People force them to.

Printed with permission. Robert Jensen is a journalism professor at the University of Texas at Austin and author of "The Heart of Whiteness: Race, Racism", and "White Privilege and Citizens of the Empire: The Struggle to Claim Our Humanity."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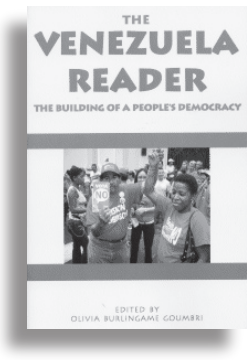
The Venezuela Reader: The Building of a People's Democracy



Edited by Olivia Burlingame Goumbri

Book review by Greg Rosenthal

Following the example of Cuba's humanist approach to guaranteeing its people the right to quality education and health, Venezuela has embarked upon a historical mission to eliminate poverty in a country where nearly 70% of the population is poor. As Chavez consistently reiterates, the only way to end poverty is to empower the poor and marginalized.

Any country in the Global South, with the interest to actively fight poverty, defying the powerful interest of corporations, wealthy elites, and the logic of global neo-liberal capitalism are certain to have many enemies, domestic and international. With ever persistent threats from the Bolivarian experiment's powerful opponents, the Hugo Chavez government has taken grand steps to redistribute the country's oil wealth to provide much needed services to the poorest communities.

> "Similar to its role in Chile, Nicaragua, Haiti, Panama and the Philippines, amongst other nations, the U.S. has taken it upon itself to influence the future of Venezuelan politics." —Eva Golinger

The collection of articles in the book, *The Venezuela Reader: The Building Of A People's Democracy*, edited by Olivia Burlingame Goumbri, has successfully grasped and articulated the complexity of life in Venezuela. Most notably, the reader highlights the substantial accomplishments of the 'Bolivarian Revolution' through its popular new Constitution and social 'Missions' that serve the poor. In addition, the reader has captured the enormity of the opposition to Chavez and the 'Bolivarian Revolution'. The articles bring to life the opposition who privately control nearly all of the media, have high positions within Venezuela's oil company, and are receiving support and collaboration from the United States government. The value of the reader is its ability to critically incorporate these two opposing elements and how they play out in today's Venezuela.

The first section of this book sets out to highlight how the Bolivarian Constitution—created by the Venezuelan people—along with the Land Laws and Missions have been constructed to bring power to the poor.

The Land Laws are permitting the government to redistribute land. Private land over a certain size that lay idle—formerly *latifundios*—is being given to people and cooperatives to cultivate and live on. This marks a total transformation from the colonial order, where the Spanish crown allotted massive estates to wealthy families, resulting in 75% of cultivatable lands concentrated within 5% of the population.

The Constitution guarantees the right to education and quality healthcare for all. Although the Constitution laid out plants, it was the Missions that put words in action. The sheer will, self-sacrifice and commitment of the Venezuelan people have built the results of the Missions. Through *Mission Robinson*, illiteracy has been eliminated. Primary education is now free and universal. Adults are now able to complete their GED free of charge by *Mission Ribas*; and *Mission Sucre* provides grants for higher education. These Missions have also led to the construction of thousands of schools throughout Venezuela.

With the help of tens of thousands of Cuban doctors, through the program *Barrio Adentro*, Venezuela has been able to provide medical clinics offering treatment, prevention and education to some of the poorest Barrios. The program also involves training Venezuelans to become doctors and to update the formerly privatized medical system.

Mission MERCAL has been able to provide state-subsidized food at 25% of market price, providing food to families who could not otherwise afford food.

The Missions and social programs were made possible through the initiative of the Chavez government and the state-owned oil company. Venezuela is the world's fourth largest oil producer, and with the state-controlled oil company, PDVSA, profits are redirected to contribute to the well-being of the populace.

Similarly, an article in the reader explains how Venezuela has utilized its oil to create cooperation with its neighbors through trade alliances and loans. For example, providing goods at preferential rates to others in the Americas and Caribbean … even bartering oil with Argentina for cattle, leather, and soy and with Cuba for doctors and medical equipment. The regional alliances have also allowed for the Global South to take a stand against U.S. neo-liberal initiatives, such as the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

The Bolivarian Constitution was approved by 87% of the electorate. This text incorporates progressive language and acknowledges the rights of people and groups who have historically been disenfranchised. Three articles in the reader pay particular attention to the extent of the Constitution.

The first one, written by the international organization, the Global Women's Strike, gives much deserved praise to Article 88 of the Constitution, being "the first in the world" to recognize the importance of compensating women for the vast social wealth they produce through work in the home. The Article states the following:

"The State guarantees equality and equity between men and women in the exercise of their right to work. The State recognizes work in the home as an economic activity that creates added value and produces social welfare and wealth. Housewives are entitled to Social Security in accordance with the law."

The acknowledgment by Venezuela of the reproductive labor of women that has gone without remuneration, and the desire to right this wrong, proves to be an example worth emulating. Although not mentioned in this book, the largely Roman Catholic country has made no efforts toward guaranteeing women the right to abortion or the protection of queer people from discrimination.

In 1498, Christopher Columbus landed in South America which subsequently resulted in the near-annihilation of Indigenous people of the Venezuelan region. For five hundred years they have been terrorized. Under the new Bolivarian Constitution, "the social, political, and economic organization of Indigenous communities, as well as their cultures, languages, rights, and land" are protected. Additionally, the government may not encroach upon and in fact, *must protect* the land, resources, culture and economy.

As mentioned, the Constitution makes careful note of peoples historically disenfranchised; but according to the authors of another article on the Constitution, this is not always the case. In this important article, the authors point out how the Constitution and the Chavez government have not addressed racism against Afro-Venezuelans and extreme poverty rates amongst Venezuelans of African descent. With strong support from Afro-Venezuelans, the authors state that the Chavez government has not met the needs of this community in "public education and policy programs to address the marginalized social status and racial and cultural discrimination against Afro-Venezuelans."

The latter half of the book is a series of thorough articles recalling the power and tyrannical tactics and maneuvers of the powerful anti-Chavista interests, simply dubbed 'the opposition'. The opposition is primarily composed of elites; the former de facto rulers of Venezuela—owners of the media, corporations and large private firms, managers within the PDVSA, and the not-so-hidden fist of the United States ruling class. Their primary goal is to reclaim power from Chavez and return to neo-liberal capitalism.

Several of the authors go into detail about the oil strike and the now famous "media coup" as shown in the documentary *The Revolution Will Not Be Televised*. Following that is a very detailed analysis of the role U.S. intervention plays in the opposition, and their latest attempt to oust Chavez in a referendum.

▸ **Venezuelan Reader** *continued on page 11*

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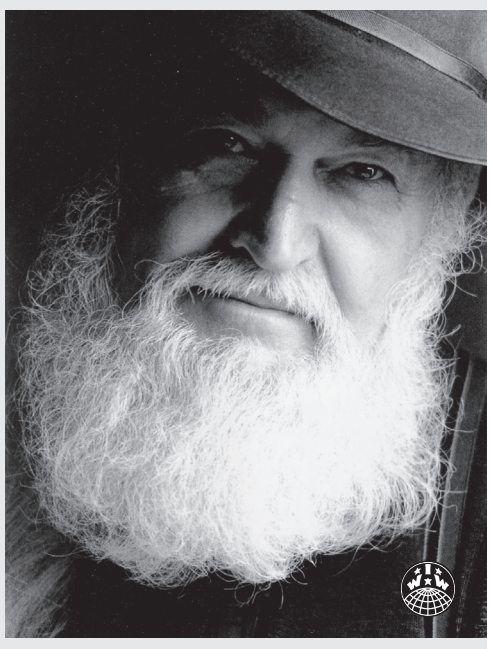

Known as the Golden Voice of the Great Southwest, he is described by others as a true eclectic, archivist, historian, activist, philosopher, hobo, tramp, member of the IWW, and just about everything in between. Utah Phillips is nationally known as a folk artist, a singer/story teller and a Grammy Award Nominee for his work with Ani Difranco. He only gets out now and then to do a live concert, and we are thrilled to have him returning to the historic Capitol Theater. An evening in his company is an object lesson in the power of folk art to help everyday people develop a sense of their shared worth and importance in the world.

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Love is an action. Act.

Guantanamo Hunger Strike

by Erin Genia

President Bush recently declared, "we do not torture," but ample evidence contradicts his claim. Perhaps most glaring is Vice President Cheney's attempt to immunize the CIA from torture prohibitions.

In the so-called "war on terror," the rule of law has been corroded by torture, prisoner mistreatment, indefinite detentions and "disappearances" by U.S. hands. Documented abuses include hooding, stress positions, withholding necessities, physical and sexual assault, religious animosity and humiliation. "Rendition"—the transferral of detainees to countries that practice torture—is a reality. These illegal and immoral procedures are occurring in the name of "security." In actuality, they undermine the very foundation of human rights.

Why have terror suspects not been fairly tried or charged? Without due process, there will be no justice for the victims of September 11th—on whose behalf the "war on terror" has been waged—or for those who have been wrongly detained. U.S. military officers have admitted that 70-90% of detainees in Iraq were arrested by mistake. Racial and religious discrimination are routine.

At Guantanamo Bay, detainees have been denied contact with their families and lawyers. In violation of U.S. and international law, cruel and inhumane treatment in handling and interrogation are customary. Detainees have been tagged "enemy combatants," a term created to exempt U.S. authorities from the Geneva Convention. In response to outcry, military commissions have taken place for a handful of the 500 detained at Guantanamo, but they do not meet judicial standards.

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Many detainees exist in legal limbo, like Saeed Ahmed Al-Sarim, a Yemeni man who was captured in Pakistan in 2002. His family learned he was at Guantanamo through the Internet. Families of prisoners held incommunicado suffer unduly. Al-Samir's brother wrote that Saeed's four year-old daughter, Gheda, "waits every day by the door" for her father's return.

Recent Guantanamo hunger strikes, which started this summer, reveal the desperation of detainees. Their demands for religious tolerance, improved conditions, and fair trials have been ignored. Abdul-Rahman Shalabi, a hunger-striker from Saudi Arabia, told his lawyer, "after four years in captivity, life and death are the same." Hunger strikers are reportedly being brutally force fed through large nasal gastric tubes.

Over 200 prisoners have taken part in the hunger strike. The Department of Defense has officially recognized only about 30 because the DOD defines a hunger strike as a refusal of nine consecutive meals in 72 hours. Many strikers accept meals, but then flush them down the toilet to avoid force feedings.

In an attempt to quell criticism, the U.S. invited UN human rights investigators—four years after an official UN request—to visit Guantanamo. The investigators declined, because prisoners could not be interviewed. Defense Secretary Rumsfeld said the U.S. only allows access to prisoners by the neutral International Committee of the Red Cross. The ICRC disclosed that tactics used at Guantanamo are "tantamount to torture."

The abuses taking place at Guantanamo are characteristic of official U.S. conduct in the "war on terror," in Afghanistan and Iraq to secret facilities and elsewhere. No political or military goal can justify torture. When administration officials minimize allegations of torture and pursue exemptions from international law, consider the adage, "in war, truth is the first casualty." We must hold our leaders accountable, for the use of torture by the U.S. threatens human rights globally, ultimately making us all less secure.

Erin Genia is coordinator of Amnesty International chapter #474 in Olympia, Contact: **(360) 956-0213** *or* **emgenia@comcast.net**.

▸ **Bangor** *from page 1*

nonviolently bring about this nuclear free future?"

In the United Kingdom our Scottish allies are also willing to "fill the jails" to bring about nuclear abolition. Faslane Peace Camp has housed resisters outside of the Faslane Trident Submarine Base for 24 years. Father Bill "Bix" Bischel, a Tacoma Catholic Worker who recently traveled to the UK, reported that he was "pleasantly surprised at how much resistance there was among the Scottish people at every level" to nuclear weapons. A huge grassroots movement is trying to make the UK the first country to abolish its own nuclear weapon supply. Next fall activists will be undertaking an ambitious campaign to shut down the base for a full year. They are asking people to travel from around the world to join in the blockade, called Faslane 365.

In light of the sacrifices that Jackie Hudson and others have made, our misdemeanor trial seems like a small price to pay. It is just one step in the larger journey we are all on: ending our commitment to global power maintained through violence. Nuclear weapons are a key component to this power: they are the ultimate expression of violent force, and their very presence is an ongoing threat to all life on the planet. By resisting Trident we are standing up for a world where annihilation is not an option of the most powerful, and one nuclear mistake cannot wipe out life in a hundred-mile area.

Many people have generously asked what they can do to support the four of us. We have an excellent attorney who has donated his services to our defense. We have a pre-trial on January 20, at which our attorney and the prosecutor will enter motions for the trial. The trial will likely be in March or April, and we will publicize the dates when we know them.

The next action at Bangor will be on Martin Luther King's birthday on Sunday, January 15. The day will begin with introductions, discussion and nonviolent training in the morning, followed by a potluck lunch. The vigil and civil disobedience will begin at 1:30. Dr. King wrote, "A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death." We invite you to join us in resisting the spiritual death Dr. King warned of. A carpool will leave Olympia for Poulsbo at 6:30am from Ralph's Thiftway parking lot. Shannon is coordinating the carpool, and can be reached at (360) **352-1274**. Complete information about the action, and directions to the base, are available at the web site of the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, **www.gzcenter.org**.

PHOTO BY SCOTT YOOS

Alice Zillah, Shannon Bushnell and Patty Imani blocking the main gate to Bangor Submarine Base on August 8, 2005.

▸ **Poverty Action** *from page 1*

costs in the state. In Washington, there are not enough jobs for the unemployed as there are more people looking for work than there are job openings that pay a living wage. Today, minimum wage, a concept established in 1959, is further below the poverty line than it has ever been.

National poverty was the impetus for Martin Luther King to officially launch the Poor People's Campaign shortly before his assassination:

"I think [a job] ought to be the first thing that we guarantee every person capable of working a job. And this can be done in many, many ways. There are many things that need to be done that could be done that's not being done now. And this could provide the jobs.... And of course, there are definitely going to be people all along, people who are unemployable, as a result of age, as a result of something that failed to develop here or there, and as a result of physical disability. Now these are the people who just couldn't work. Certainly they have a right to have an income. If one has a right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, then he has a right to have an income. Now, this may mean a radical, in a sense, redefinition of work. Maybe we've got to come to see that a mother who's at home as a housekeeper or as a housewife is working."

Everyone has the right to be safe and healthy, but in Washington many people are without the means to ensure the safety and security of themselves and their families. This places Washington residents at risk; it is dangerous to be forced to sleep on the streets, to go without food, or basic healthcare. Everyone in our state should have the means to secure their basic health and well-being. Everyone who works has the right to a job that allows them to support themselves and their families. The January 16 march on the state Capitol is because the state government has a role to play in ensuring that everyone in Washington is able to meet their basic needs.

> Nowhere in the state can anyone working a minimum-wage job or anyone on public benefits afford fair-market rental housing costs.

The day begins with a morning of issue trainings and skill-building workshops on the legislative process and bills concerning poverty that are being, or should be, considered by our representatives. Registration is required but scholarships are available and lunch is provided. The afternoon will be a historic march from Sylvester Park to the Capitol steps where we will rally. Participants are then encouraged to meet with their legislators to impart their messages about poverty. The evening will be filled with music as various performers play The Vault—from hip-hop to country to folk. The admission cost is waived with registration for the morning workshop.

Join us as we bring poor folks from around the state to work together on poverty issues, march on the capitol dome and advocate for change, and then rock-out to end poverty! Come to one part of the day or make it a full day!

Pat Tassoni is staff of the Thurston County Tenants Union and is a member of MLK Poverty Action Summit Organizing Committee. Info **943-3036** *or* **tctu@tenantsunion.org**

Bringing It Home

The next meeting for "Bringing it Home" will be held at the **Olympia Center**, from **9 a.m.** to **1 p.m**., on **January 21** (Saturday). The event is being co-sponsored by the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation, and the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace.

Since July of 2005, some of those involved in local Iraq-related resistance efforts have met to share insights about non-violence, to plan and organize their efforts, and to coordinate work with one another. Under the title, "Bringing it Home," local organizers Emily Lardner and Tom Crawford have brought folks together in July, August, and October. Participants have numbered between 20 and 50 people, and represent both existing and new efforts to oppose the Iraq occupation.

The agenda will feature a review of progress to date, discussion of organizing strategy, time for individual groups and campaigns to plan their next steps, and vocal chord exercises (aka singing fun songs!). The exact time and place will be posted on the Olympia FOR web site. If you want to join local efforts to end the Iraq occupation, show up on January 21, be part of creating a new direction for our nation—and have some fun while you're doing it!

Info, check the Olympia FOR website: **http://www.olyfor.org/**, or contact the organizers: Tom Crawford, **tcpraxis@comcast.net**, **280-0242**; or Emily Lardner, **lardnere@hotmail.com**, **705-3678**.

Alliance for Democracy Movie Night

Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price

a look at the impact of the retail giant on local communities

Sunday, February 5 at 6 pm
Traditions Fair Trade Café
300 5th Avenue, Olympia
Discussion will follow the film

Benefit for Bread & Roses

Utah Phillips

Tuesday, February 7th • 7pm
Capitol Theater • 206 E 5th Ave

Tickets: $15-30—sliding scale Adults / $13—OFS member, senior, student, low income / $10—Children 12 and under

Known as the Golden Voice of the Great Southwest, he is described as a true eclectic, archivist, historian, activist, philosopher, hobo, tramp, member of the IWW, and just about everything in between. Utah Phillips is nationally known as a folk artist, a singer/story teller and a Grammy Award Nominee for his work with Ani Difranco.

Benefit for Olympia CISPES

Venezuela Bolivariana:
People and Struggle of the Fourth World War

Friday, February 10th, 9pm
Capitol Theater • 206 E 5th Ave
$4.50 Olympia Film Society members / $7 non-members

This documentary examines the Bolivarian Revolution of Venezuela and its links to the world-wide movement against capitalist globalization, or Fourth World War (which followed the Third World War, or Cold War). This screening benefits the Salvadoran grass-root organization of (BPS) Social Popular Block and the Olympia CISPES delegation acting as international observers to the Salvadoran elections of March 2006.

▸ **Venezuela Reader** *from page 9*

According to Venezuelans, April 11, 2002 marks history as the first "media coup" ever. Media concentration in Venezuela is so great that the opposition controls almost all of the media outlets in Venezuela, numbering 95%. Eva Golinger, Esq. constructs an image depicting the extent of the private media's foreknowledge as well as participation in the April 11, 2002 coup. "All the private media owners were present in the palace cheering on as the coup leaders assumed power and dissembled Venezuela's democratic institutions."

Another decisive blow was unleashed by the opposition in December of 2002, this time at the heart of the country's economy. The Oil Strike, as it was called, was in fact not a strike at all, but a lockout "by bosses, owners and managers" of the workers from PDVSA, the state-owned oil company. The Venezuelan private media spun this as a workers' strike. The lockout, lasting a little over two months, caused a total crisis to the economy.

In a subsequent article, the same author, Golinger, brings to light shocking information connecting the United States government's support and funding of the opposition. Golinger goes the next step to make connections of how similar the U.S. imperial strategy in Venezuela is to other Latin American countries the U.S. has brutalized.

The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) funded by Congress and the State Department was initially created to quell the 'communist threat'. From the U.S. government, millions of dollars have been funneled to the opposition by way of the NED. Similarly, USAID and the AFL-CIO's international Labor Solidarity center are guilty in the same manner, funding and supporting the coup, lockout and referendum.

"Similar to its role in Chile, Nicaragua, Haiti, Panama and the Philippines, amongst other nations, the U.S. has taken it upon itself to influence the future of Venezuelan politics." The author goes on to display in detail the tactics the U.S. is using in attempts to topple the Venezuelan government, also used in Chile to topple Salvador Allende, the Sandinistas in Nicaragua, Goulart in Brazil, and the list goes on.

The Referendum, which was supposed to be a victory for the opposition, turned out to be a fait accompli for Chavez and a testament to the success of the Bolivarian Revolution, despite its total support by U.S. corporate and government elites.

The closing article is appropriately concluded by Gregory Wilpert, editor of www.venezuelanalysis.com. In his final paragraph, Wilpert makes the following conclusion directed toward those on the Left who are skeptical of the Chavez government and or any government, "While individuals and their communities indeed have to change in order to change the world, states also have to give them the space and opportunities to do so." Without room from repression and violence, social movements are unable to clear a space for themselves to grow and flourish. In fact, this may be the very essence of the Chavez government's role in Venezuela that is due critical support.

At least three articles seem to simply fill space and could preferably be left out altogether. With strong content in nearly every article, some of the authors fail to provide documentation of their work which tends to leave their arguments unreliable.

In total, this book is well worth the read for those interested in learning the intricacies of the Venezuelan experiment and what has been done thus far to empower the people of the Americas in the face of powerful opposition, backed by the U.S. government, Washington Consensus and transnational capital.

Greg Rosenthal is an undergraduate student at The Evergreen State College, studying in Venezuela.

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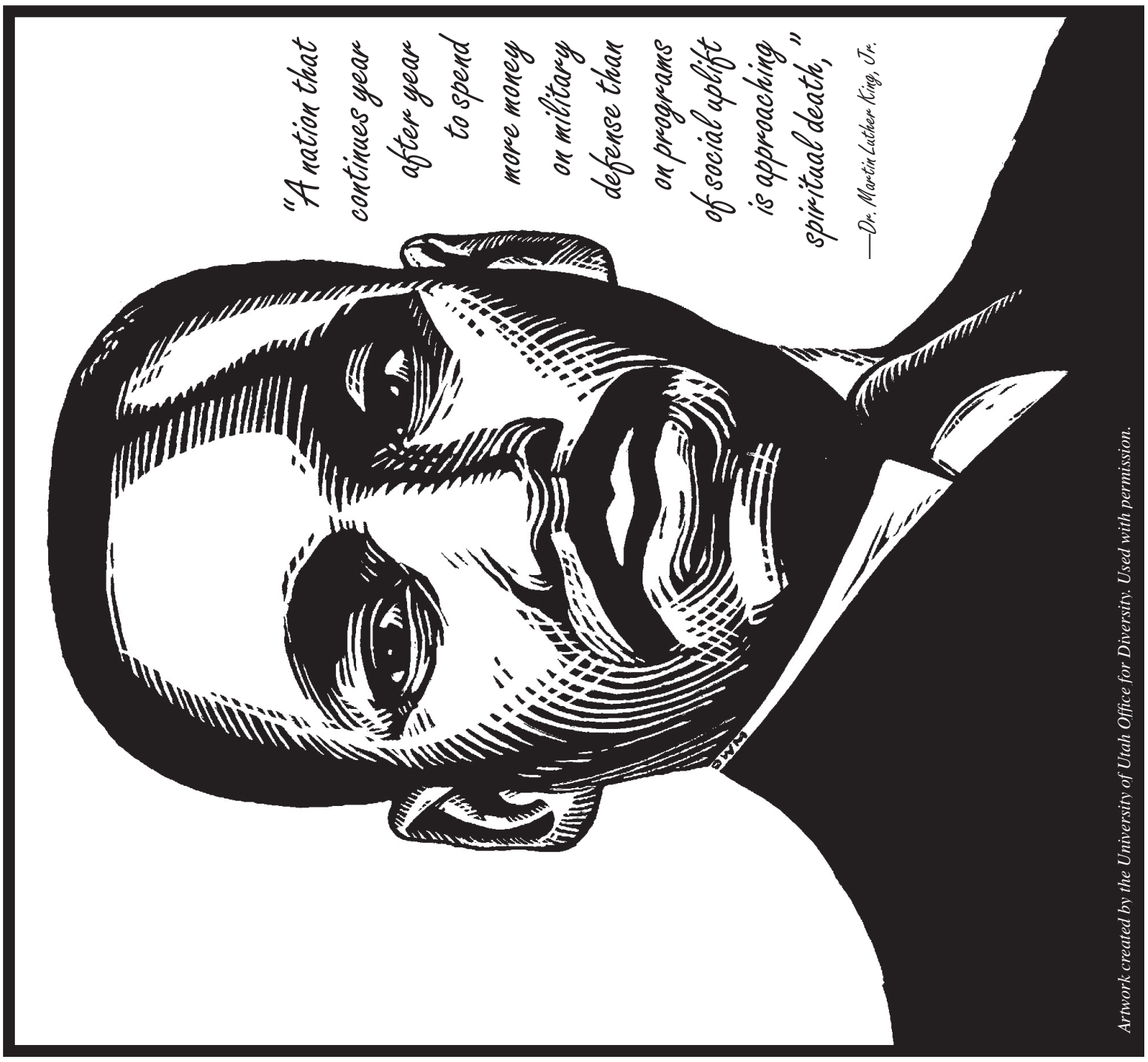
"A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death,"
—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
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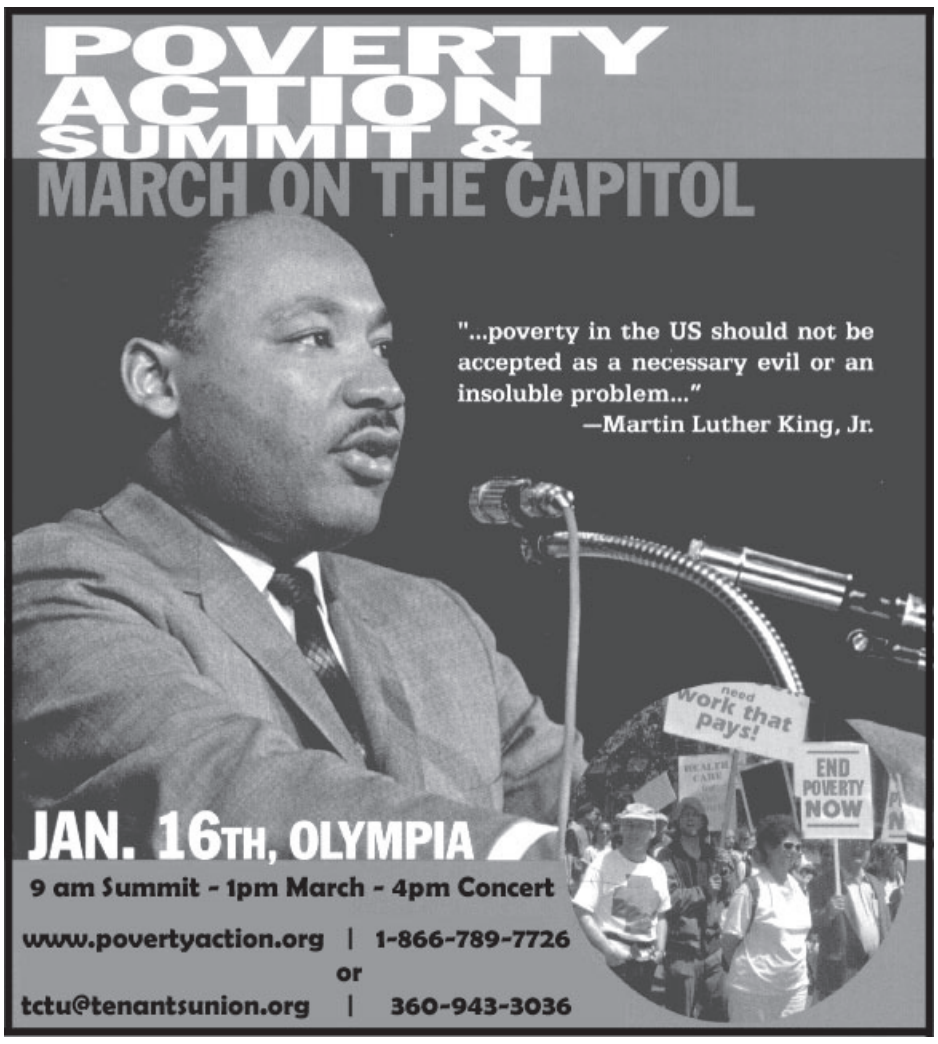
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MARCH ON THE CAPITOL
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—Martin Luther King, Jr.
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9 am Summit - 1pm March - 4pm Concert
www.povertyaction.org | 1-866-789-7726
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